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LETTER DATED 29 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TOGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from Mr. Kokou Joseph Koffigoh, Minister of States responsible for foreign affairs and cooperation of Togo and current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of the Final Communiqué adopted at the end of the extraordinary meeting of the ECOWAS Committee of Five (which has become the Committee of Six) on Sierra Leone, held in Abidjan on 28 December 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roland Y. KPOTSRA

Annex

Final Communiqué adopted at the end of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Five of the Economic Community of West African States on Sierra Leone, held in Abidjan on 28 December 1998

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs members of the Committee of Five on Sierra Leone and the Minister of State responsible for foreign affairs of Togo and current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met in an extraordinary meeting in Abidjan on 28 December 1998 to consider recent developments in the situation in Sierra Leone.

2. The following members of the Committee were present at the meeting:

Côte d'Ivoire;

Ghana;

Guinea;

Liberia;

Nigeria;

Togo;

Burkina Faso as current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU);

The Executive Secretary of ECOWAS.

3. The meeting was also attended by observers from:

Sierra Leone, represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs;

The Commander of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) forces;

The representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and representative of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL);

The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

The Special Envoy of the President of the United States of America to Liberia;

The representative of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

4. At the opening meeting, statements were made by the Minister of State responsible for foreign affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, the Minister of State responsible for foreign affairs of Togo and the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS.

5. The various speakers commended the joint initiative of General Abdulsalami Abubakar, Head of State and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, and General Gnassingbé Eyadema, current Chairman of the

Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS and President of Togo, to convene this extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Five on Sierra Leone. They emphasized the need to find a rapid solution to the disturbing situation currently prevailing in Sierra Leone, primarily as a result of the resumption of fighting by troops of the junta and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). They emphasized that all member States of ECOWAS, as well as the international community, must feel seriously concerned at this new situation which, if not controlled in time, risked setting the entire subregion ablaze and calling in question the development efforts of the States members of ECOWAS.

6. The meeting also heard a message of support from the Secretary-General of OAU to the Committee of Five, and took note of the reports submitted by the Commander of the ECOMOG forces, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone, the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General, the representative of UNOMSIL, the representative of the Government of the United Kingdom and the Special Envoy of the President of the United States of America.

7. These reports informed the meeting of the reinforcement of the rebels (the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and RUF) with both men and new equipment, in violation of the arms embargo, affording these forces greater mobility on the ground. The Commander of the ECOMOG forces and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone described the military support Liberia was said to be providing for the activities of the rebellion. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia denied any involvement of his country in the conflict in Sierra Leone, and called for the opening of an international inquiry to shed full light on those accusations.

8. The meeting was also informed of the presence of foreign mercenaries alongside the rebels, in violation of all international laws.

9. Following deliberations, the Committee decided to resume its activities that had been suspended since the restoration of constitutional legality in Sierra Leone on 10 March 1998. It also decided that Togo should be an ex officio member of the Committee, which would become the Committee of Six under the Chairmanship of Togo for the duration of its mandate.

10. Furthermore, the Committee of Six on Sierra Leone:

(a) Appeals to the rebels (AFRC and RUF) to cease fighting immediately, lay down their arms and recognize the Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah as the sole legitimate Government of Sierra Leone;

(b) Expresses full support for the legitimate Government of Sierra Leone and for all its efforts to restore peace and stability in Sierra Leone;

(c) Invites the Security Council to reaffirm its support for the legitimate Government of Sierra Leone and for scrupulous implementation of Council resolutions on Sierra Leone by the international community;

(d) Exhorts the international community to impress fully on the rebels that their action is doomed to failure and that they will never be recognized as a legitimate leadership in Sierra Leone;

(e) Commends Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria for dispatching troops to Sierra Leone in the context of ECOMOG operations;

(f) Appeals to all ECOWAS countries that have pledged troops for ECOMOG operations in Sierra Leone to dispatch such troops immediately;

(g) Calls on the United Nations, OAU, the European Union and the Sierra Leone Contact Group to expedite the provision of logistic support to ECOMOG, particularly in the form of transport and communications, so as to ensure greater mobility and effectiveness on the part of ECOMOG;

(h) Expresses great concern at the acts of aggression to which the Republic of Sierra Leone has been subjected and strongly condemns the activities of countries that provide assistance to the rebels in Sierra Leone, in violation of the decisions of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS and of the Security Council;

(i) Condemns the presence of mercenaries in Sierra Leone and demands that they withdraw immediately from Sierra Leone, the subregion and elsewhere in Africa;

(j) Strongly condemns the atrocities carried out, particularly mutilations of the Sierra Leonean population;

(k) Recommends to the current Chairman of ECOWAS to undertake initiatives with a view to bringing about a genuine rapprochement between the Heads of State of Sierra Leone and Liberia so as to foster conditions more conducive to mutual confidence, thus promoting stability in the subregion;

(l) Decides to resume its activities fully and to make every effort to re-establish the dialogue between the Government and the rebels, as provided for in the Abidjan accords and the Conakry peace plan;

(m) Demands that the rebels cease hostilities forthwith, participate in the dialogue and take up the amnesty proposal put to them by the Sierra Leonean Government;

(n) Warmly commends ECOMOG for its courage in the face of the difficulties under which it operates and expresses support for it in that connection.

11. The Committee calls on all countries members of ECOWAS and on the international community to withhold support from the rebels.

12. The meeting expresses its deep gratitude to President Henri Konan Bedie and to the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for their cordial welcome and for the facilities made available to it so as to ensure a successful outcome for its work.